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CONTACT!

FOR THE ALUMNI OF ST. JOSEPH'S OF INDIANA

CATHOLIC
BUILDING
CONVENTION
JUNE 30,
JULY 1, 2, 3

Vol. 10 - No. 5

Collegeville, Indiana

May, 1948

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Join St. Joseph's Alumni

Building Convention to Present Top Speakers

**Survey Returns at
1,202; Market Tops
\$275,000,000**

As this issue of CONTACT! goes to press the Business and Industry Foundation reports returns in its Catholic building survey of 1,202 projects with an estimated value of \$276,803,700. A detailed tabulation of returns appears on page 2.

The foundation points out that this is only the total for three sections of the nation-wide survey and that the final returns will not be compiled until shortly before the National Catholic Building Convention and Exposition gets under way June 30 at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago. All dioceses throughout the country will have been reached by the survey when it is completed.

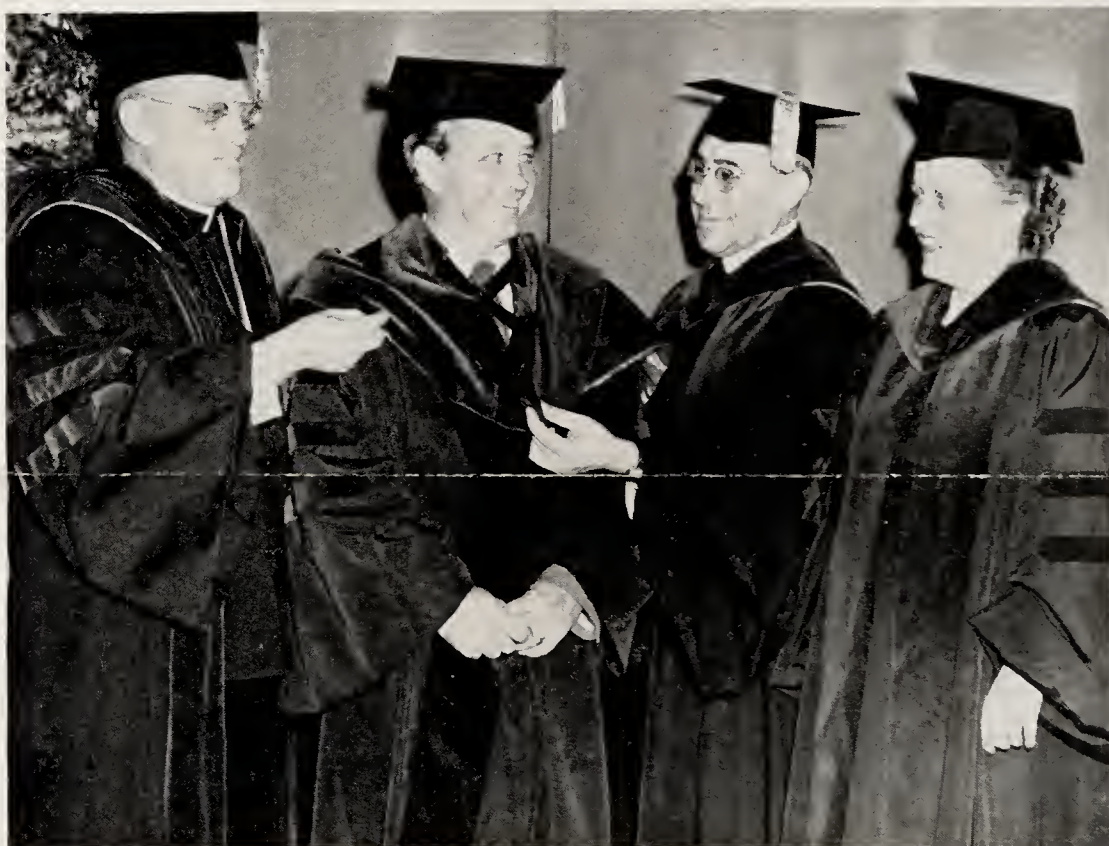
Projecting returns over the entire country the foundation estimates that the total market for the next decade will be about ten billion dollars for new construction, remodeling, equipment, furnishings, decorating, replacement and maintenance.

The program committee for the convention, chairmaned by Rev. John Lefko, C. PP. S., pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Whiting, Ind., has announced the program outline for the convention with an impressive list of authoritative speakers.

The program is arranged in several major groups of discussions, one on planning of building groups; one on architecture; one on construction; one on materials and equipment. In addition, there will be panel sessions devoted to each particular type of Catholic building: church, school, convent, rectory, recreation hall, etc. in the parochial classification; and one on hospitals; one on orphanages and homes; one on college buildings; and one on other structures.

More than 100 exhibit booths have been sold to building and allied industry organizations and one of the most interesting expositions ever staged is promised. An attendance of 5,000 is anticipated.

Jordans Become Doctors of Laws



Father Lucks, Jim Jordan, Father Pax and Mrs. Jordan as colorful ceremony of conferring degrees was completed. The citation which Father Lucks read to a nationwide NBC audience appears on page 3. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan gave full credit to Don Quinn, their script writer, for the creation of their weekly programs. The Jordans were the first choice of thousands of college students in the Radio Acceptance Poll good taste vote which began last October and concludes for this season in May.

CONVENTION PROGRAM WILL COVER CATHOLIC BUILDING FROM PLANNING THROUGH CONSTRUCTION, REMODELING

The program committee of the National Catholic Building Convention has announced the program outline for this outstanding event. Rev. John Lefko, C.P.P.S., chairman, said that the first subject in the general sessions would be an address by an outstanding member of the hierarchy on "The Objectives of Catholic Building."

Other general sessions have been arranged in "groups," the first of which is the "Planning Group." Three talks are scheduled for this session which will be of marked interest to all Catholic administrators. "Understanding Community Growth for Better Diocesan Planning;" "Planning the Parish Group;" and "Planning the Institutional Group," comprise the session.

The second general session will be devoted to architecture and will include two discussions: "The New Look—or the Old—in Architecture?" and "Relations Between Architect and Administrator."

The third general session will consider "The Construction Problem" and will comprise a survey discussion of the whole subject including materials, contractor services and a preview of new materials and their applications. "When Shall We Build?" is a question of vital interest that will be answered by several authorities who will deal with costs and availability of materials and labor, and with economic factors.

The "Remodeling Group" will present this vital subject in com-

plete detail. "The Sister's Viewpoint on Catholic Building" will air ideas from teachers, hospitaliers, and other sisters.

"Planning and Institutional Kitchen," "Heating and Air Conditioning," "Lighting for Catholic Buildings," and other subjects will be presented in special general session groups.

Panel discussions will be led by a moderator and will include a panel of experts to answer questions. The most important details of parochial and institutional buildings will come in for their special attention at these meetings.

Catholic administrators—pastors, religious superiors, college officials—and architects, from every part of the country will attend.

Fibber and Molly Win Hearts and High Honors

**NBC Brings Event
to Millions In
Special Broadcast**

In ceremonies tinged with solemnity, academic pageantry and cordial gaiety, James and Marian Jordan came to St. Joseph's, April 15 to receive the highest honors the college can grant.

The Fibber and Molly McGee of Tuesday night radio fame accepted their honorary doctor of laws degrees with humility and sincere appreciation. It was named by many as the most impressive day St. Joseph's has ever had.

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan were met at the Dearborn station in Chicago by a banner-waving delegation of 100 St. Joe men. Police from Illinois and Indiana escorted the honored guests to the campus, where they arrived at four p.m.

The band struck up "Happy Birthday to You" for Mrs. Jordan's benefit and the ceremonies began.

Addresses of welcome were given by the Very Rev. Henry A. Lucks, Ph.D., St. Joseph's president, and John W. Lynch, student chairman of the National Federation of Catholic College Students' press commission, which conducts the Radio Acceptance Poll from the St. Joseph's campus.

The citation was read by the Rev. Walter Pax, Ph.D., dean, and a commendation was then delivered by the Most Rev. John G. Bennett, Bishop of Lafayette, Ind. Master of ceremonies was the Rev. Henry Martin, M.S. in Ed. Also on the stage was the originator of the Radio Acceptance Poll idea, Miss Marilyn Malone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James V. Malone of Chicago and a freshman at Marycrest College.

Following the special convocation, the faculty entertained Mrs. Jordan at a birthday party.

Paramount Newsreels, the Associated Press and the National Broadcasting Co. covered the ceremonies, the last-named with a network broadcast of the ceremonies Thursday evening from the theatre stage.

Contact!

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VERY REV. HENRY A. LUCKS, President
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REV. CHARLES J. DAVITT, Director of Alumni and Student Publications

Father Lucks' Address

"IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE this afternoon, in the name of the faculty of St. Joseph's, to welcome once again to his Alma Mater our own beloved Bishop Bennett of Lafayette who has so graciously accepted our invitation to be present on this glad some occasion. To all of you, friends and good neighbors, who have gathered to witness this ceremony, cordial greetings and a heartfelt welcome. And it gives me keen pleasure to be the one to speak the words of welcome to the honored guests of the college. Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan who so richly deserve the mark of esteem and honor which St. Joseph's wishes to bestow upon them.

"The faculty of St. Joseph's was moved to make this expression of esteem because it recognizes in the achievements of Mr. and Mrs. Jordan some realization of the ideals which it sets before its students as worthwhile objectives. It is not merely their artistry that we applaud nor yet their success in their chosen field, but rather the principles of Christian living which by a delightful indirection of method they propose to the listening multitude of their fellow citizens.

"In a world that moves so swiftly and in which there is much mental stress and pressure, these two contrive, by wholesome entertainment, to offer some relief; they do so, not by appealing to base inclinations that may hold up to ridicule even some of the most sacred of human traditions; not by trying to afford an escape from the realities of life, but rather by a delicate portrayal of Christian family life in a manner that instills into their audience a feeling of actual personal experience. They reach into the very intimacy of each family group to promote the spirit of tender consideration, respect and love, that is the basis of a cheerful and happy family circle.

"But of far greater importance is this characteristic of their entertainment: the extreme care which they exercise in avoiding any word or situation which is offensive to truly Christian morals. It is this particular quality which St. Joseph's wishes especially to commend. It is this characteristic that endears them to the Christian parent; it is this quality that demands the high regard of all right-thinking folk. I should like to state even further that it is this quality that enrolls them among the guardians of some of the cherished traditions of our American way of life. The welfare of a commonwealth, and the happiness of its people, depends to the greatest degree upon the moral fibre of its citizens.

"Whatever attacks the moral strength and courage of the nation by whatever means, strikes at the very root of the life of that nation. When the nation's people are led to forget the laws of morality, the decay of that nation has begun. And when family life and family institutions, together with the high ideals of human relationships that are involved, are held up to ridicule, or as something of no intrinsic worth, a precious possession is in danger of being taken away from those to whom it has long been a source of comfort and of Christian courage. Those who are guilty of attacks against the morals of a people, even by way of jest, betray the best interests of their fellow man. And those to whom the morals of the public are in a sense a public trust and who seriously and consistently cherish that trust are deserving of high regard and praise.

"Reference has been made to the Radio Acceptance Poll. I may add that although the award given to Mr. and Mrs. Jordan today is not an honor bestowed by that poll yet the poll served the occasion as an added reason for this mark of respect. The Radio Acceptance Poll is the first intensive study of radio audience reaction. It does not claim to be more than an expression of the reaction of thousands of college students, the leaders and parents of tomorrow to whom all manner of public entertainment should be held responsible. The one single criterion upon which these radio shows are judged by the college students is contained in this single question, 'Would a stranger be welcome in your home if he or she said the same things that come into your home over the radio?'

"I think I may say in the name of all of us to you, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, that you are welcome in our homes, and, in particular, strangers no longer to St. Joseph's, are you welcome to our Collegeville home."

Summary of Building Survey to April 15

(Story on page one)

The Business and Industry Foundation's survey of the Catholic building market now (April 15) reports a total of 1,202 projects with a total estimated value of \$276,803,700. The survey is in its third stage and will be completed shortly before the National Catholic Building Convention and Exposition gets under way June 30 at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago. Shown below is the tabulation for 1,033 projects for which estimated costs were given in the survey but an additional 169 projects of all kinds were reported without estimated costs. The foundation says that a conservative figure for the 169 projects would be \$75,000,000 for a total of \$276,803,700.

33	Hospitals	\$ 37,911,500.00
245	Churches	32,347,400.00
57	High Schools	30,403,000.00
57	College Buildings	28,376,000.00
185	Grade Schools	27,725,000.00
138	Convents	11,896,000.00
91	Recreation Centers	10,390,000.00
172	Rectories	6,566,300.00
3	Homes for Dependents	500,000.00
52	Miscellaneous Buildings	15,688,500.00
1,033		\$201,803,700.00

Only a limited number of questionnaires went into all dioceses throughout the country. The figures given here, therefore, are not total figures for all Catholic building and remodeling. However, based upon the survey, the Business and Industry Foundation places the total Catholic building and remodeling market at approximately one billion dollars overage per year for the next ten years. This figure includes not only new construction and remodeling but equipment, furnishings, decorating, replacement and maintenance.

Alumni Quickies

The host of alumni who witnessed the Fibber McGee and Molly ceremonies were led by the Very Rev. Herbert G. Kramer, S.T.D., '25-'27, new moderator-general of the Precious Blood Society . . . accompanying him was Bishop-elect Geiger of the Society's German province. . . . During the birthday banquet for Mrs. Jordan, one of the congratulatory letters which were read came from the Very Rev. Seraphin Oberhauser, '15-'20, American provincial of the Precious Blood Fathers, whose birthday was also April 15. . . . The coast-to-coast NBC broadcast was heard in Miami by friends of Mr. and Mrs. Jordan. . . . Father Titus Kramer, '94-'01, listened in over a Boston station. . . . Charles Gleason, '23-'25, reported clear reception in Cleveland. . . . Many Rensselaer dialers picked up the ceremonies via a Dallas, Texas, outlet. . . . NBC officials, Paramount newsreelmen and the Associated Press representatives ate with gusto the chicken banquet served up by Miss Clara Gabel, college dietitian. . . . It was a great and beautiful day for St. Joseph's. . . . Virgil Van Oss, '25-'30, expects to move west soon. . . . Father Clement Weiker, '25-'27, a recent campus visitor, brought along three prospective students from Kentucky. . . . FLASH . . . Henry F. Contant, '10-'13, will deliver the principal commencement address at St. Joseph's in June . . . alumni president now residing in Richmond, Ind., he is the father of Rev. Robert Contant, also an alumnus. . . . Michael (Jack) Murray, ace baton twirler and St. Joe band leader just before the war, is now practicing law at the offices of Murtaugh and Nelson, 231 South LaSalle St., Chicago. . . . A weekly radio round table of teen-age problems over WOWO For: Wayne is currently sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor, with Father Jim Conroy, '26-'32, OSV associate editor, as moderator . . . watch for his photo in your Catholic press . . . One of the many newspapermen who covered Fibber and Molly at Collegeville was Harry La Mertha of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, sent by his managing editor, Lon Burrows, '02-'03.

Fans and Notables Send Congratulations

Benny, Hope, Crosby and Many More Say "Well Done!"

A flood of telegrams deluged the McGees as they sat down for Molly's birthday party in the college dining room. They came from scores of celebrities and from hundreds of fans. Here are a few of them . . .

"Heartfelt congratulations to you both. We at NBC have known for a long time about the outstanding good taste and all around acceptability of the Fibber McGee and Molly program and so have millions of your fans. But it is most gratifying to have your merit recognized in such a splendid way. All best wishes.

—Niles Trammell, President, National Broadcasting Co.
"Congratulations on receiving the honorary degrees. Best regards."

—Bob Hope
"Congratulations on your honorary degree from St. Joseph's. They are no two people in radio more deserving of the honor. All my best."

—Jack Benny
"Get out of that college before you contaminate the premises. There is only one man they love at St. Joe. Congratulations."

—Fred Allen
"As an old Hoosier I'm delighted to hear of the honor bestowed upon you who make baby sitting a pleasure on Tuesday."

—Clifton Webb
"We would like to put you on retainer to handle our law work as soon as you receive your degree. Don't trip over your gowns. Those square hats should fit your heads perfectly. Seriously, you deserve the honor. Heartiest congratulations."

—Amos and Andy
"All of your millions of listeners who know so well the beloved characters you have created must all be congratulating you today. But none of them can be more sincere in their felicitations than I am."

—Dick Eisiminger, ABC, Hollywood
"All your friends in radio can take pride in the honors that come to you for your great contributions to broadcast entertainment. CBS sends its hearty congratulations."

—Frank Stanton, President, Columbia Broadcasting System
"I had a hunch when we met that day at Starved Rock that such high honor would befall you. You certainly deserve it. Congratulations and best wishes."

—Bing Crosby
Others who sent messages included Quentin Reynolds, Gene Tunney, Cole Porter, Beatrice Lillie, Gladys Swarthout, Eddie Cantor, Billy Rose, Ed "Archie" Gardner and many more.

BISHOP AND JORDANS AT BIRTHDAY PARTY



Mr. and Mrs. Jordan are shown here with His Excellency the Most Rev. John G. Bennett, Bishop of the Lafayette in Indiana diocese. Bishop Bennett joined in paying tribute to the Jordans and commended college students all over the country for their participation in the Radio Acceptance Poll. When Mr. and Mrs. Jordan responded to the degree citation they said they were not only grateful for the honor but deeply sensible to the responsibility its acceptance placed upon them. They pledged a continuation of the same kind of entertainment that has made them famous for good taste. They said they had made a pledge years ago that they would never knowingly offend any one of any race, creed or color through the medium of Fibber McGee and Molly.

BISHOP BENNETT GREETES JORDANS AND COMMENDS COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR RADIO ACCEPTANCE POLL

The Most Rev. John G. Bennett, bishop of the Lafayette in Indiana diocese, greeted the Jordans in this brief address to the hundreds who packed the college theatre on April 15. His Excellency, a member of the bishops' committee of the Legion of Decency, will issue a statement concerning the Radio Acceptance Poll as part of the first annual report on the poll after its termination May 2 for this season.

"May I begin by saying that I am extremely happy that this ceremony is taking place on a day since the time of the establishment of the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana. I am delighted with the opportunity of witnessing this dignified and colorful conferring of the hon-

orary degree upon Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, and of speaking to them personally words of appreciation and commendation for their achievements through the years.

"It is my wish to commend most highly the action of the faculty of St. Joseph's in conferring upon Mr. and Mrs. Jordan this mark of great esteem and honor; I commend its judgment and its keen appreciation of the merits of the recipients of the honorary degrees; and so I congratulate both the recipients and the faculty!

"The students of St. Joseph's are likewise to be congratulated. They together with a host of other college students, have been eager to promote the interests of the Radio Acceptance Poll, and

they have expressed themselves in unmistakable terms that their preference in radio entertainment is for the clean and the wholesome and the uplifting as typified by our honored guests.

"They must applaud in their hearts the recognition that has been accorded this day. I am glad to join with the faculty of St. Joseph's in approval of that Poll and in appreciation for the good it has accomplished and will continue to accomplish.

"I bespeak for the Doctors Jordan blessings in abundance from on high; and you know that I pray every day for the success of Saint Joseph's, for its faculty, and for its students.

"My sincerest congratulations and best wishes to you, Dr. and Dr. Jordan."

For Doctors James and Marian Jordan

Press and radio officials attending the Jordan ceremonies at St. Joseph's characterized the degree citation as one of the most beautiful tributes ever paid to theatrical folk. Here it is . . .

"Saint Joseph's College sends cordial greetings to all who shall read these presents.

"What we have enacted in the name of St. Joseph's College we now hereby make known . . .

"As folklore is treasured and as folksong is loved, so too is that kindly humor that springs from homely atmosphere and experience esteemed as a precious jewel of the human spirit. For humor implies a sure conception of the beautiful, the majestic and the true, by whose light it surveys and shapes their opposites.

"It is an humane influence softening with mirth the rugged inequalities of existence, prompting tolerant views of life, bridging over the spaces which separate the lofty from the lowly, the great from the humble. . . mirth and merriment bars a thousand harms and lengthens life, and brings a quickening of zest and a glow of well-being.

"It is fitting indeed to pay tribute to those who by their extraordinary talents contribute to the well-being of society and who strive to promote good feeling among their fellowmen. More particularly is it proper to honor those whose contribution to the art of entertainment has been so wholesome, so full-hearted, so appealing as to merit the praises of millions.

"The manner of jesting," writes Cicero, 'ought not to be extravagant or immoderate but refined and witty. There are, generally speaking, two sorts of jests: the one, coarse, rude, vicious, indecent; the other, polite, refined, clever, witty. The second, if well-timed, is becoming to the most dignified person; the other, is unfit for any gentleman.' And Quintillian has said, 'That laughter costs too much which is purchased by the sacrifice of decency and propriety.'

"We declare that those whom we honor this day are true exponents of the Law of Charity in that the coarse and the rude find no place in their entertainment; of the Law of Good Taste, in that the vicious, the improper, and the indecent are likewise absent; of the Law of Morality in that decency, cleanliness, wholesomeness, propriety, refinement characterize their offerings.

"Wherefore, Saint Joseph's College, wishing to express approval of the simple and natural artistry of

JAMES JORDAN and of MARIAN JORDAN,

his esteemed spouse, and at the same time to honor them for the high ideals of which they give evidence in their public life as well as in their private kingdom; and wishing to serve as spokesman for the forty millions of people for whom their kindly humor is a weekly surcease from toil and worry; as well as desiring to commend them for their truly Christian Philosophy of Life and for the acceptability of their public performances, on both stage and radio, to all classes and ages of persons, confers upon them the highest honor within its power to grant, the degree

DOCTOR OF LAWS, honoris causa.

"And we beg the Giver of all good gifts to continue to bless them with Christian courage and with those homely virtues which have endeared them to such a multitude of their fellowmen.

"Done at Collegeville on the Fifteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Forty-eight, and of the College the Fifty-seventh."

BEARS RETURN FOR FIFTH YEAR

Chicago's National Football League entry, the Bears, will return to St. Joseph's of Indiana for their fifth straight year to train for the 1948 pro season.

Bear coaches and players have repeatedly called the St. Joe gridiron one of the finest in the country. The Bears will bring one of the strongest teams they have ever assembled to their training base and they will make a strong bid for the championship.

The presence of Johnny Lujack, Notre Dame football alumnus, is expected to give the Bears tremendous new strength.

ALUMNI GROUPS URGED TO ACT

Many of the St. Joe alumni groups were inactive during and since the war but are being urged to take steps now to reorganize.

Rev. Charles J. Davitt, in charge of college publications, will be glad to assist graduates in locating new alumni so that new groups in many cities can be organized.

If you'd like to be the St. Joe alumni leader in your community, write Father Davitt at once for names. The college will extend every cooperation in helping organize strong alumni groups throughout the country.

SCIENCE DAY DRAWS CROWD

Science Day, April 25, was the occasion for a big turnout to see the annual demonstrations by student members of the Albertus Magnus Society.

St. Joseph's elaborately equipped laboratories were packed during the afternoon and science seniors presented exhibits and lectures in all science subjects.

Rev. Albert A. Wuest, M. A., is moderator of the Albertus Magnus Society and directed the work of preparing for the annual Science Day.

Visitors saw many unusual demonstrations, including a very important one on human nutrition.

Great Day for Jordans and St. Joe's As McGee and Molly Receive Degrees



MR. AND MRS. JORDAN ARRIVE. A thunderous greeting from students and fans from Jasper County went up when the police escort brought McGee and Molly to the campus.



JORDANS MEET RAP STUDENTS. Marilyn Malone, originator of the Radio Acceptance Poll and a student at Marycrest College, Davenport, Ia., Mrs. Jordan, Mr. Jordan, and J. W. Lynch, student of the RAP student steering committee at St. Joseph's.



TO THE THEATRE. A view of the academic procession as the Jordans went to the theatre to be honored. The Jordans are in the foreground followed by Bishop Bennett and Father Lucks.



THE JORDANS RESPOND. After Father Lucks' address and the reading of the citation by Father Pax, McGee and Molly told the audience of their pledge, made many years ago, that they would never knowingly offend any person of any race, color or creed.



MOLLY'S BIRTHDAY CAKE. Molly cut the first piece of her birthday cake for Bishop Bennett (seated at right) while Fibber served His Excellency. The birthday party was attended by faculty members and guests from many parts of the country.